The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor, including the legislative, executive and judicial fields, and supplies other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Wisdom lies only in truth.—Goethe.

WHOLE NO. 1417 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1938 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 28, NO. 24

$300,000,000 More For Loan Fund To Aid Housing Asked by A. F. of L.

Authorization in Work Relief Bill Designed to Provide Decent Housing For 200,000 Low-Income Families Would Mitigate the Terrible Unemployment Situation by Creating Jobs For 700,000 Persons Who Have Been Consigned to the Workless Army by Those Who Own and Operate American Industry: Failure to Enact Measure Will Be Visioned as "Treason" to Slum Dwellers and Jobless Millions.

By A.F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C., June 10.—Unanswerable arguments in favor of the $300,000,000 additional fund authorized in the spending-lending bill now before Congress for self-liquidating loans to be made by the United States Housing Authority to assist slum clearance and housing were made here today by the American Federation of Labor in a statement urging the enactment of the provision.

As an element in relieving the unemployment tragedy the A. F. of L. declared that the enlarged housing program made possible by the new loan provision would create employment for 700,000 jobless workers, and, in addition, the manufacture of the large quantities of building materials would benefit business interests generally.

Moreover, the extended housing program visioned by the $300,009,000 fund would "provide wholesome, decent housing to 200,000 families—nearly 1,000,000 human beings—who now live in overcrowded, disease-ridden slums and fire-trap tenements."

Unemployment Problem Must Be Solved

"The gravity of the unemployment situation and its immediate prospects are of deepest concern to organized labor," declared the Federation's executive council in its statement said. "Labor's primary purpose is to prevent this condition from becoming chronic and incurable.

"The enlarged and accelerated program for whose slum dwellers, contained in Title VI of the Work Relief Bill is of outstanding importance in our effort to turn the tide of growing unemployment. This measure, providing an additional authorization of $300,000,000 for loans to be made by the United States Housing Authority is undoubtedly one of the most economical and sound features of the reemployment program.

"The program is economical because it includes not a cent of actual appropriation and because the loans for housing and slum clearance are self-liquidating and will be ultimately repaid.

Work For Thousands of Jobless

"The importance of the enlarged housing program to Labor may be gauged by the fact that it offers direct employment at the site of the projects for more than 200,000 building trades mechanics and laborers as well as to some 450,000 workers employed in the production of building materials and their transportation. This addition of some 700,000 full time jobs, will make employment and purchasing power available where it is most critically needed.

"The expanded program will also benefit the manufacturer and business generally. We understand that it will require 1,500,000,000 board feet of lumber; 750,000 barrels; 1,000,000 tons of cement; 8,500,000 gallons of paint; and 700,000 tons of steel. Moreover, in these figures are, they do not reflect the indirect benefits to business generally through acceleration of economic activity and the enlargement of the purchasing power of the workers.

Decent Housing For Million Now Living In Slums

"Most important of all is the permanent social usefulness of the program, the primary purpose of which is to provide wholesome, decent housing to 200,000 families—nearly 1,000,000 men, women and children—who now live in overcrowded, disease-ridden slums and fire-trap tenements.

One of the provisions of the bill essential to the program is immediately effective in the temporary suspension of the requirement that 10 per cent of funds for construction be raised locally from local investors. This temporary elimination of the local share, as delay in-dent to the flotation of such loans by local municipalities, is another important .single factor which would make it possible to make the program effective without delay.

Slum Dwellers and Jobless Must Not Be the Victims of Reaction

This measure which is now pending final approval of Congress must be promptly enacted. To the nation faced with the responsibility of human welfare in a year of need, every day counts heavily. The unemployed workers whom this program offers real jobs must not be permitted to remain idle. **"Organized Labor throughout the nation is confident that this measure will be given prompt final approval for it cannot stand failure to do so at other than treason to the great mass of our families who now live in slums as well as treason to the more than 1,000,000 wage earners who are still without jobs."**

Workers Vote For A. F. of L. Unions As Bargaining Agents In 18 Elections

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board announced that in elections held by the board during the three months ending June 2 to select collective bargaining representatives, unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor received the greatest number of votes in 18 cases.

The following list gives the names and business of the companies whose employees voted at the elections, the name of the A. F. of L. union receiving the most votes. In cases of opposition, most of the defeated groups were either C. I. O. unions or so-called "independent" unions.

American Hair & Felt Company, Newark, N. J., fur processing—Independence International Union of North America.

The American Furniture Co., Greenville, Ind., furniture—United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

North Star Granite Co., St. Cloud, Minn., granite—Granite Cutters' International Association of America.

Ygnacio Arrien, Brooklyn, N. Y., shipping—International Longshoremen's Association.

National Motorship Corp., New York, N. Y., shipping—International Longshoremen's Association.

Royal Granite Company, St. Cloud, Minn., granite—Granite Cutters' International Association of America.

Monumental Sales, St. Cloud, Minn., granite—Granite Cutters' International Association of America.

Pacific Bedding Company, Los Angeles, Calif., furniture—Upholsterers' International Union of North America.

Joseph Magnin Company, San Francisco, Calif., clothing—United Garment Workers Union.

Jos. S. Finch & Company, Schenley, Pa., machinery—International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers.

Phelps Dodge Corporation, United Verde Branch, Jerome, Ariz., machine—International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America.

Phelps Dodge Corporation, United Verde Branch, Jerome, Ariz., machine—International Association of Machinists.

Phelps Dodge Corporation, United Verde Branch, Jerome, Ariz., machine—International Association of Machinists.

Charles R. McCormick Lumber Co., Port Gamble, Wash., lumber—Sawmill and Sawmill Workers Union.

The Rex Manufacturing Company, Connersville, Ind., manufacturing—American Federation of Labor.

Keokuk Electro Metals Co., Keokuk, Iowa, metal—A. F. of I. Federal Labor Union.

Sinclair Navigation Co., Houston, Tex., shipping—International Longshoremen's Association, and Masters, Mates and Pilots of America.

Cincinnati Milling Machine Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, machinery—Pattern Makers' League of North America.

Presbyterians Plead For Civil Liberties

Philadelphia, Pa. (AFLWNS)—The 150th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, in session here, made a strong demand for the protection of civil liberties as the foundation of American liberty. The assembly adopted the following declaration:

"We urge ceaseless vigilance in safeguarding the civil liberties of all people and recognize the obligation of the church to join in community efforts to preserve that freedom of speech and peaceable assembly which is the foundation of American liberty and the safeguard of the continued independence of the church itself."

CHILD LABOR DENOUNCED BY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Philadelphia, Pa.—A strong resolution against child labor was adopted by the 150th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, in session here.

"The increase in child labor in recent months," the statement said, "warrants a reiterating emphasis by Christian men and women on the principle that children must not be robbed of their childhood's rights of education and moral and spiritual development by industrial and agricultural labor for hire.

"Every effort should be made to secure effective Federal and State legislation outlawing child labor and the adequate enforcement of the laws."

American Range Lines Seamen Vote For AFL

Philadelphia, Pa. (AFLWNS)—The National Labor Relations Board announced that in an election held to choose an exclusive bargaining representative for the unlicensed seamen employed by American Range Lines, Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., the vessels operated out of Atlantic and Gulf Ports, except those operated in harbors, 52 votes were cast for the A. F. of L. Seamen's Union, No. 21428, the successor of the International Seamen's Union of America, as against 12 for the National Maritime Union of America, affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization.

Wireless and radio operators, chief electricians on electrically driven ships, and junior engineers holding licenses were excluded from the bargaining unit.

Cable Company Workers Vote Against C. I. O.

New York, N. Y. (AFLWNS)—In a collective bargaining election held under the auspices of the National Labor Relations Board among 466 employes of the Commercial Cable Company, the American Communication Association, an affiliate of the C. I. O., was defeated by the Commercial Cable Staff's Association, an independent union. Of 380 ballots cast, 341 were for the independent union, 33 for the C. I. O., three for neither and three were challenged.

MISS PERKINS ATTENDS GENEVA LABOR PARLEY

U. S. Secretary of Labor Is Concerned With the Universal 40-Hour Week Which Government, Employer and Labor Representatives Are Considering at I. L. O. Conference.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Geneva, Switzerland.—Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor of the United States, arrived in Geneva to participate in the consideration of the universal 40-hour week and vocational training and apprenticeship, which are the major subjects on the agenda of the 24th International Labor Conference held under the auspices of the International Labor Organization of the League of Nations.

Miss Perkins will, following the election of John C. Winant, former chairman of the U. S. Social Security Board, be director of the International Labor Office to succeed Harold B. Butler, whose resignation effective as of January 1, was previously accepted by the governing body of the I. L. O., strengthened the impression here that the United States Government was embarking on a more energetic policy of international cooperation.

This is the first time the U. S. conference attended by Miss Perkins. In addition she is the first woman United States Cabinet to speak officially here.

Seven other Ministers of Labor are attending the conference. They include those of France, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia and Brazil.

Reasons For Blanket Hours Convention

The main question under consideration by the International Labor Conference is the demand of the workers' representatives for a blanket convention establishing the 40-hour week in all industries in countries whose governments are members of the International Labor Organization.

Workers' representatives base their demand for a blanket convention on the extreme slowness of the previous method whereby the conference has sought to secure the establishment of the 40-hour week by separate conventions in separate industries.

Motor Drivers Work Considered

A separate item on the agenda is the Regulation of Hours of Work and Rest Periods for Professional Drivers of Vehicles Engaged in Road Transport. It is believed that the conference is likely to make a distinction between actual "driving time" and "employment time" with the result that the maximum of 40 hours per week while the latter might exceed that limit.

The conference will also consider hours for shops, hospitals, hotels and theaters, with special consideration insisting that the 40-hour week is inapplicable and that hours should be further lowered.

Vocational Training Included in Agenda

"Technical and Vocational Education and Apprenticeship" is the fourth point on the agenda. It illustrates the way the I. L. O. is constantly expanding its work concerning those who work for a living. Here again there is a difference of opinion between the employers' and workers' representatives stressed the alleged lack of skilled labor in certain industries and the alleged failure to train a sufficient number of apprentices during the depression to meet the needs of industry after the rearmament program and for other hand desire to prevent the inordinate use of apprentices to break down the standards established by the skilled workers.

There is general recognition that the question of vocational training for reemployed persons has become one of great importance due to the need for absorbing large numbers of the unemployed into industry, especially those in which they were originally employed.

Mr. Butler, the retiring director, tersely summed up the matter when he said "the whole question of industrial education is undergoing something like a revolution."

List of U. S. Delegates

The appointment of the following persons as delegates to the conference was approved by President Roosevelt:

United States Government Delegates: Frances Perkins, Washington D. C., Secretary of Labor; Miss Frieda S. Miller, New York City, director of the division of women and industry, New York State Labor Department.

United States Employers' Delegate: Henry I. Harriman, of Boston, chairman of the board, New England Power Association.

United States Workers' Delegate: Robert J. Watt, former secretary-treasurer of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor and a member of the Governing Body of the I. L. O.

They are also a number of advisers for each group.

The advisers for the U. S. Workers' Group are Matthew Woll, New York; Atlanta, Ga., chief of the Southern Office of the American Federation of Labor; Joseph E. Cohen, of Philadelphia, chairman of the legislative committee, Typographical Union of Philadelphia; Hyman Bloomberg of New York, general manager of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; Joseph Schlossberg, Washington, D. C., director of research, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

William T. Foster, of Boston, director of the Pollak Foundation for Economic Research, is adviser for the U. S. employers' delegate.

Price of Three Meals Cut From Waitresses Wages

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—The District of Columbia Minimum Wage Board has ruled that restaurant employers may deduct the price of three meals per day from the legal wages of waitresses under the decision of the board. The legal minimum wage rates per hours are between 6 a. m. and 9 p. m. The legal wage from which the price of three meals may be deducted is $12.23 per week.

The decision of the board eliminated several weeks of complaints from waitresses charging that restaurant employers may deduct the price of three meals per day from their wages. The waitresses under the decision of the board contended the legal wage rates per hour were $12.23 per week.

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Cincinnati Milling Machine Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, machinery—Pattern Makers' League of North America.

GREEN SUPPORTS HOUSE WAGE BILL

American Federation of Labor to Urge Defeat of Conference Report If Objectionable Features of Senate Bill Are Substituted for House Provisions.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Unqualified support of the Federal Wage and Hour Bill passed by the House of Representatives and equally unqualified opposition to the bill passed by the Senate covering the same subject were expressed in a statement here by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. Both measures are in the hands of a Congressional Conference Committee consisting of seven Senators and seven Representatives.

The House bill establishes a minimum wage of 30 cents an hour to be stepped up to 40 cents in three years and a maximum work week of 44 hours stepped down to 40 hours in two years. The House bill provides for administration by the Secretary of Labor who would apply the graduated wage and hour standards to industries found to be engaged in Interstate Commerce.

The Senate bill sets up a labor standards board of five members which would apply wage and hour standards after investigation of the facts in each industry and locality. The Senate bill bars from the labor standards law any man 40 per week and wages in excess of 40 cents per hour, and permits the establishment of differentials. Differentials of any sort are banned by the House bill.

"The American Federation of Labor," Mr. Green said, "insists on these fundamental requirements in any wage-hour legislation adopted by Congress:

"1. The law must establish a universal floor for wages.

"2. It must provide a universal ceiling for hours of work.

"3. It must be simple in administration.

"For these reasons, the American Federation of Labor supports the House bill which embodies all three essential requirements for a sound and workable law.

"The American Federation of Labor is unalterably opposed to the Senate bill because it sets up no universal minimum wage and maximum hour bill at all. It fails to establish a definite and universal floor below which wages cannot fall and fails to set up a definite and universal ceiling above which the hours of labor cannot rise. Furthermore the Senate bill would create a new Federal board with the sweeping power to establish wages, hours and with cumbersome and oppressive methods of machinery.

"Both bills are now in conference. There can be no compromise on the fundamentals of wages and hours. If the conference decide under pressure to substitute the Senate bill for the House bill for the fundamental requirements of the House bill, then the American Federation of Labor will be forced to call upon the friends in the Congress to defeat the conference report."

BEAUTY SHOP EMPLOYES GET $18 WEEKLY WAGE

Minimum Wage Board in Nation's Capital Also Fixes 36 to 48 Hour Week For Operators.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Experienced women operators employed in Washington beauty shops must be paid not less than $18 a week for a 36 hour week ranging from 36 to 48 hours, according to a decision rendered here by the District of Columbia Minimum Wage Board.

This basic wage will go into mandatory effect after the first week in September. The $18 a week higher than the proposal offered at recent public hearings by spokesmen for the proprietors of beauty shops. Spokesmen for the workers had requested a minimum wage of $22.50.

Under the board's ruling part-time workers, employed for less than 36 hours a week, must be paid no less than 50 cents an hour. The "floor" wage for overtime work was also fixed at 50 cents an hour.

Desk clerks, telephone operators and cashiers were given a minimum wage of $17 a week and maids and "clean-up" workers a basic wage of $14.50.

Apprentice Rules

Regulations covering employment of apprentices in beauty shops were also set up by the board. It was explained that under the District of Columbia compulsory bill, recently signed by President Roosevelt, student workers must apprentice for one year before they work their first 500 hours without compensation. The board prescribed that after the first 500 hours apprentices shall be paid not less than $12 a week for the ensuing five months, and not less than $15 a week during the next four months; thereafter the apprentices would be eligible to the $18 rate now established minimum. This decision, the board said, applies to students in all beauty culture schools, which are deemed "in competition," and to all shops.

These provisions were recommended to the minimum wage board by the Beauty Culture Conference, composed of representatives of the operators and employees of beauty shops.

The board's decision was rendered by Arthur L. Eberhardt, labor representative, and Claude H. Woodward, employer representative. Mrs. William Kittle, board chairman, was out of the city.

Packing Company Signs Pacts With Two Unions

Bakersfield, Calif. (AFLWNS)—Local No. 193 of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America and Local No. 87 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers of America have finalized an agreement with the Kern Valley Packing Company which union officials said makes this plant the only 100 per cent union packing house in Kern County. The unions are both A. F. of L. affiliates. The contracts involved, approximately 60 men, are for a one-year period and provide a 48 hour week for plant workers with time and a half for overtime, and included payment of 2 per cent interest on funds required of drivers and installation of time clocks.

C. I. O. UNION MAKES REFUND TO A. F. of L.

Seceded Philadelphia Battery Workers Federal Union, Facing Suit, Returns A. F. of L. Charter and Substantial Sum of Money.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Lewis G. Hines, director of organization of the American Federation of Labor, announced here that the Battery Workers former Federal Labor Union No. 18383, Philadelphia, Pa., agreed to pay to the American Federation of Labor a substantial sum as the outcome of a suit against the latter union which four ousted to the Committee for Industrial Organization. The suit was to recover the charter of the Federal local union which were transferred to the C. I. O.

Lewis R. Liner, of Philadelphia, associate counsel with Charlton Ogburn for the American Federation of Labor and for William Green, who appeared as co-counsel plaintiff in the suit, stated that the "substantial sum paid to us in settlement of the case completely affirms the position taken by us that a seceding or minority group cannot take with it the funds and charter of the local union and that the same rightfully belonged to the A. F. of L. American Federation."

The case was listed for trial on Monday, June 6, 1938, in Court of Common Pleas No. 7, Philadelphia, but the bill in Equity was withdrawn with the approval of the court upon the payment of a sum agreed upon in settlement.

REMINGTON RAND ENDS FIGHT ON LABOR ACT

Confronted With Court Threat of Jail Sentence, Plans for Reinstatement of 4,000 Locked-Out A. F. of L. Strikers Are Begun.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

New York, N. Y.—Confronted with the imposition of a fine or jail sentences, or both, for further refusal to obey a National Labor Relations Board order to reinstate 4,000 locked-out A. F. of L. strikers and recognize a council of A. F. of L. shop stewards, the Remington Rand Company for its factory employes, the officials of Remington Rand, Inc., have evidently realized that further opposition to the National Labor Relations Act would be futile.

The threat to impose penalties for contempt of court for violation of the Act and the Labor Board's order was made by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second District, in whose hands the NLRB case now rests for enforcement.

The U. S. Supreme Court on two different occasions recently refused to disturb the Labor Board's order in the case. The Court refused the petition of the company petitioned the Circuit Court of Appeals from the original decision on the claim that obeying it would violate the Fifth Amendment of the company. To this contention the Supreme Court made the following firm reply:

"If this involves disturbance of the company's business, it is unfortunate; but having chosen to challenge the law, the company must abide by the loss."

Shortly after the Circuit Court made this decision, the company opened the door to every hope the Remington Rand Company will obey the provisions of the Labor Board decision, the company, which operates factories in Middletown, Conn., Ilion, N. Y., and Syracuse, N. Y., was reported to be laying off 600 strike-bound workers to make room for reemployment of the first group of the 4,000 locked-out A. F. of L. strikers.

34 NEW CONTRACTS WON BY MACHINISTS UNION

Victories Gained in Collective Bargaining Agency Election and Two Strikes.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The negotiation of thirty-four more agreements with employers in a number of States was reported by officials of the International Association of Machinists. The number of the contracts provided for wage increases as high as $3 a day and included provisions for annual vacations with pay.

In addition, officials of the Association said that in an election for representation conducted by the Labor Relations Board among employes of the Cutler Hammer Company, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis., the machinists Union received an overwhelming majority of more than 1600 votes. The opposing union was a C. I. O. affiliate.

In the strike field union officials reported that automobile mechanics had achieved victories in Longview, Wash., and Superior, Wis. In the Superior settlement a wage reduction was defeated and the strikers received a flat increase of 5 cents above the former pay scale on a retroactive basis.

Washington Milk Drivers Union Wins Pay Increase

Washington, D. C. (AFLWNS)—A threatened strike of 1,100 members of the Milk Wagon Drivers Union, No. 754 was averted when union members voted half for all over-time and strict adherence to seniority in vacation schedules.

It was reported that the agreement also reduced the maximum hours for drivers from 60 to 54 per week provided a 48 hour week for plant workers with time and a half for overtime, and included payment of 2 per cent interest on funds required of drivers and installation of time clocks.

Padway Hits U. S. Court Injunction Against Picketing By AFL Unions

Counsel For American Federation of Labor Says Edict of Federal Judge Dickinson in Philadelphia That Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act Do Not Apply to Cases Where the National Labor Relations Board Has Assumed Jurisdiction Is a "Travesty on Justice" and Will Be Appealed to the Higher Courts.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—On June 8, Federal Judge Oliver B. Dickinson issued a temporary injunction in Philadelphia restraining American Federation of Labor unions from picketing the properties of the Union Premier Food Stores, Inc.

The Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act limits the authority of Federal judges to issue injunctions in labor disputes. As the issuance of the injunction against the A. F. of L. unions, despite the provisions of the Norris-LaGuardia Act, Judge Dickinson said the labor dispute in question in the proceedings was before the National Labor Relations Board, and that the provisions of the Norris-LaGuardia Act were "expressly withheld" from such cases.

Joseph A. Padway, counsel for the American Federation of Labor, in a statement made public by the A. F. of L. assailed Judge Dickinson's ruling as a reversion to the old theory of Judge-made law and a "travesty on justice," declared that the American Federation of Labor would appeal the decision to the higher courts.

"Judge Dickinson of the Federal District Court of Philadelphia, Pa., has issued an injunction against several unions prohibiting all picketing because of a labor controversy over which representation is pending before the Labor Relations Board," Mr. Padway declared.

"By this decision this Federal Judge reverts to the old reactionary stand of the Federal courts in maintaining 'government by injunction.'

"Notorious decisions of Federal judges had for years denied to workers the lawful right to strike or to exert economic pressure in furtherance of lawful labor disputes.

"This brought about the Clayton Act, limiting the power of judges to issue injunctions in labor disputes. The judges in considering this Act interpreted it that the American Federation of Labor was compelled to seek further relief.

"At the instance of the American Federation of Labor, the Norris-LaGuardia Act was passed by Congress in 1932. By this act, the powers of courts to issue injunctions in labor disputes were effectively curbed, and it is no longer possible for Federal courts to issue drastic and arbitrary injunctive decree prevents workers from picketing in furtherance of their legitimate labor disputes.

"Now comes Judge Dickinson and uses the Wagner Act to defeat the purposes and benefits of the Norris-LaGuardia Act, notwithstanding the fact that the Wagner Act specifically provides under Section 13 that 'nothing in this act shall be construed so as to interfere with, or impede or diminish in any way the right to strike.'

"It has recently been held by the United States Supreme Court that a controversy over representation, even though the employes involved are not representatives of the union involved in the controversy, is a legitimate labor dispute, and that the union and its members may engage in peaceful picketing in connection therewith.

"Judge Dickinson's decision is a travesty on justice. The American Federation of Labor will fight it to the bitter end. The rights of workers to exert economic pressure in furtherance of their legitimate demands must and must be preserved as written in the Norris-LaGuardia Act.

"The American Federation of Labor will appeal this case to the Circuit Court of Appeals, and if necessary to the Supreme Court of the United States. This precedent must not be established."

Small Contractors Placed Under Public Contracts Act in Bill Passed by Senate

Violators of Labor Relations Act Barred From Bidding For Three Years; Employment of Persons Under 16 Banned.

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Senate passed by a unanimous vote a bill amending the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act so as to secure a wider application of its labor standards to contractors and subcontractors.

The original Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act of 1936 is limited to contracts in excess of $10,000. The bill passed by the Senate reduces this limit to $2,000 and extends it to apply to contracts where the amount equals or exceeds $2,000 and to contracts for services and vessels.

Prevailing Wage, 40-Hour Week

Under the Walsh-Healey Act contractors with the government work are required to pay their employes not less than the minimum wages as determined by the Secretary of Labor to be the prevailing minimum wages in the locality and the employes of such contractors are not permitted to work in excess of eight hours in any one day or in excess of forty hours in any one week. The bill as it came to the Senate floor from the committee that the prevailing minimum wages shall be fair and reasonable, in accordance with the judgment of the Secretary of Labor.

Child Labor Restrictions

The act also prohibits the employment of male persons under 16 years of age and female persons under 18 years of age. In the bill as passed by the Senate the Secretary of Labor may reduce from 16 to prohibited and their employment under 18 is banned in any occupation which has been declared to be hazardous or injurious to their health by the Secretary of Labor. The report of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor on the bill explained that the effect of this change was designed to bring the provisions of the act more into conformity with state child labor standards and the generally accepted practice of industry which bans the employment of minors at 16 and will eliminate the present inconsistent standards covering male and female minors."

List of Ineligible Bidders Provided

The original act provides that unless the Secretary of Labor otherwise recommends no government contract shall be awarded to persons designated as having breached any of the provisions of the act until three years have elapsed from the date the Secretary of Labor determines such breach to have occurred."

For more adequate enforcement the bill passed by the Senate includes authority to place on the ineligible list of bidders for government work contractors persistently remaining in violation of the National Labor Relations Act.

In explaining the necessity for extending the scope of the act to all contracts in excess of $2,000, the Senate committee said that the $10,000 limitation "covers only about 3 per cent of the total number of supply contracts and only 15 per cent of their total value."

The committee also said that "the practice of splitting bids so that jurisdiction of the act could be evaded would be stopped if all bids for the same function were increased to $2,000 contracts."

Similar Bill in House

A bill similar to the Senate bill has been reported favorably by the Committee on Labor of the House of Representatives, but the majority report was accompanied by a minority report signed by seven members of the committee who based their opposition on the ground that extending the scope of the Fifth Amendment to contracts for construction that extending the scope of the measure downward to contracts of $2,000 would be unnecessary and inadvisable," and to the provision barring from bidding on government work those who have been found guilty of the provisions of the Public Contracts Act itself and the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act.

The Senate bill amending the Public Contracts Act was introduced by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts. The House bill was introduced by Representative Healey of Massachusetts.

A. F. L. Union Favored By Lumber Company Men

Port Gamble, Wash. (AFLWNS)—The employes of the Charles R. McCormick Lumber Company, of Port Gamble, voted heavily for the A. F. of L. Lumber and Sawmill Workers Local Union No. 2526 as exclusive collective bargaining agency, the National Labor Relations Board announced.

The vote was 1,536 for the A. F. of L. union as against 267 for International Woodworkers of America, Local 113, a C. I. O. affiliate.

Presbyterians Plead For Civil Liberties

Philadelphia, Pa. (AFLWNS)—The 150th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, in session here, made a strong demand for the protection of civil liberties as the foundation of American liberty. The assembly adopted the following declaration:

"We urge ceaseless vigilance in safeguarding the civil liberties of all people and recognize the obligation of the church to join in community efforts to preserve that freedom of speech and peaceable assembly which is the foundation of American liberty and the safeguard of the continued independence of the church itself."

EMPLOYERS AT GENEVA HIT FORTY-HOUR WEEK

By A. F. of L. Weekly News Service.

Geneva, Switzerland.—Hans Oersted of Denmark, spokesman for the employers in the International Labor Conference here, declared against the forty-hour week.

He reiterated the employers' belief that at the present stage of technical progress it was impossible to reduce hours without reducing the volume of production and increasing the cost of production and the cost of living